

Wisconsin Public Psychiatry Network Teleconference (WPPNT)

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An Overview of Interpreting the COMPAS Assessment: Understanding Criminogenic Needs and Risk of Recidivism



State of Wisconsin
Department of Corrections

Mental Health Teleconference
March 12, 2015

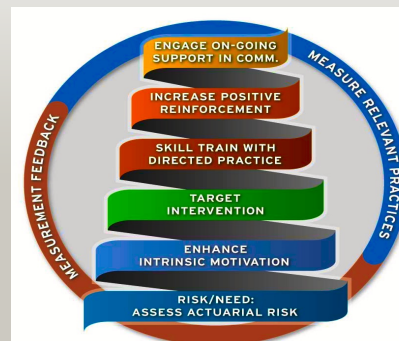
Objectives

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- ✓ Understand how Evidence-Based Practice must be at the foundation of any risk/needs implementation
- ✓ List 2 examples of what COMPAS is and 2 examples of what COMPAS is not
- ✓ Recognize the most predictive factors of risk as identified by research
- ✓ Identify how a COMPAS assessment is administered
- ✓ At a high level, read a COMPAS bar chart
- ✓ Recognize the OARS program and list the admission criteria

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A Foundation of Evidence Based Practice



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The RNR Principles: Recidivism Reduction

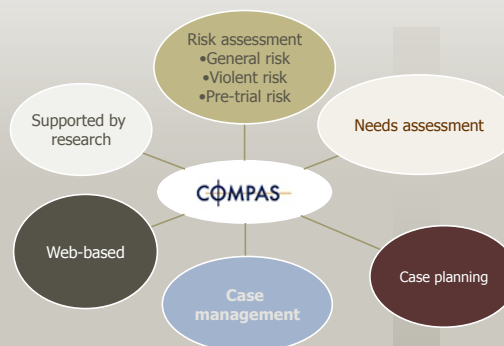
Three Principles to Follow:

- **Risk:** Accurately identify the level of risk to maximize the investment of resources.
- **Need:** Know the needs of individual offenders and how those needs relate to recidivism.
- **Responsivity:** Treat the offender's criminogenic needs through appropriate programming and supervision to reduce risk of recidivism.

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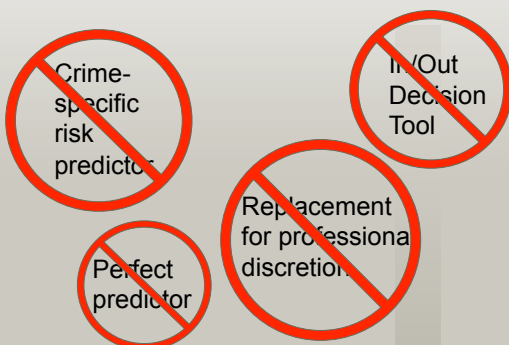
(Andrews and Bonta, 2007)

What is COMPAS?



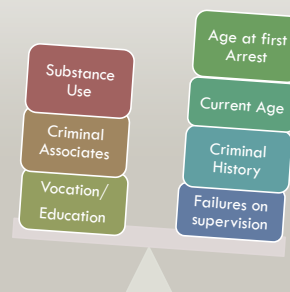
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What is COMPAS not?



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General Risk Predictors



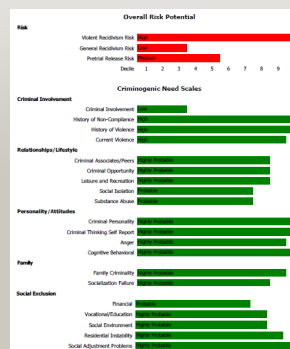
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COMPAS Core Assessment

Official Records	Interview	Self-Report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect in advance Portal 100 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi-Structured Build Rapport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pencil and Paper

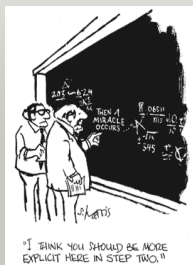
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COMPAS Core Scales



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Norming versus Validation



Norming:

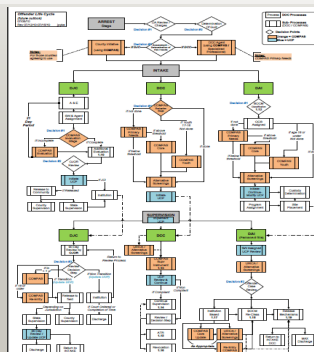
Norming refers to the process of creating a 'norm' group to use as a comparison when assessing a specific group. This is done by comparing the assessed persons answers to a large amount of cases whose outcomes we know.

Validation:

Validity is the extent to which an assessment measures what it is supposed to. For our purposes in evaluating COMPAS, this means how well the scales (23) are measuring what they say they are measuring.

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COMPAS Applied in WI DOC



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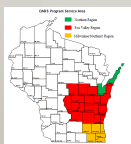
Opening Avenues to Reentry Success

• OARS

— Overview

— Admission criteria

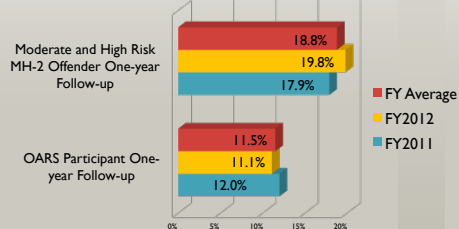
- Minimum of six months of supervision after release
- Serious mental health diagnosis (DOC MH-2A=Axis I)
- **Moderate or High COMPAS Risk Level Recommendation**
- Releasing to an OARS territory (county of residence)
- Demonstrate a general motivation and willingness to engage in treatment programming
- Voluntarily consents to participate in the OARS Program



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Recidivism: One-Year Follow-Up

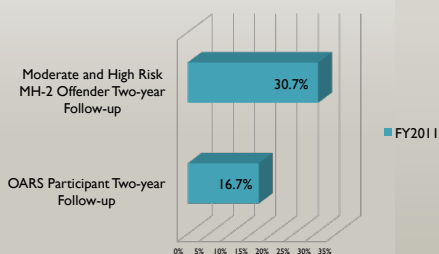
One-year Recidivism Rates



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Recidivism: Two-Year Follow-Up

Two-year Recidivism Rates



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Resources / Further Learning

- Northpointe website: <http://www.northpointeinc.com/>
- Independent validation study: http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/crimnet/ojsa/opca/compas_probation_report_2012.pdf
- NIC 8 Principles of Effective Intervention <http://nicic.gov/theprinciplesofeffectiveinterventions>
- Risk Principle – Ohio halfway house study <http://cjonline.uc.edu/resources/criminal-justice-research/increasing-the-effectiveness-of-correctional-programming-through-the-risk-principle-identifying-offenders-for-residential-placement/>

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